

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for automatically organizing electronic messages in a computer system, the method comprising:
 receiving obtaining an electric electronic message having a plurality of properties;
 ~~storing the electronic message in a data store;~~
 automatically identifying a plurality of folders with which the electronic message is to be associated by applying rules to the properties of the ~~stored~~ electronic message; and,
 automatically generating a plurality of shortcuts to the ~~stored~~ message, each of the shortcuts comprising an element directly or indirectly identifying the ~~stored~~ message and an element directly or indirectly identifying one of the plurality of folders.
2. (Original) A method according to claim 1 comprising storing the shortcuts as records in a database.
3. (Original) A method according to claim 2 wherein at least one of the properties comprises a date and the rules include a rule which identifies one folder with which the message is to be associated based upon a comparison of the property's date to a current date.
4. (Original) A method according to claim 3 comprising periodically and automatically generating new shortcuts, each of the new shortcuts associating the ~~stored~~ message to a folder based upon a comparison of the property's date to a current date.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of~~ A method according to claim 2 wherein the data store holds a plurality of messages and the method comprises receiving from a user folder selection information identifying a selected one of the plurality of folders, retrieving from the database a plurality of shortcuts associated with the selected folder, each of the shortcuts associated with a different one of the plurality of messages, and displaying a representation of the retrieved shortcuts on a display.
6. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of~~ A method according to claim 5 wherein each of the shortcuts comprises a SortKey value and retrieving from the database a plurality of shortcuts comprises retrieving the plurality of shortcuts in order of SortKey values of the retrieved shortcuts.
7. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of~~ A method according to claim 6 wherein retrieving each of the plurality of groups from the database comprises sequentially retrieving shortcuts associated with the selected folder from the database in order of the SortKey value until either:
- a) a last shortcut associated with the selected folder has been retrieved from the database; or,
 - b) at least a predetermined number of shortcuts has been retrieved from the database in a current group and the SortKey value for a most recently retrieved shortcut is different from the SortKey value for a second-most-recently retrieved shortcut.
8. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of~~ A method according to claim 1 wherein the folders comprise a plurality of date folders each associated with a different period, the method comprising automatically generating a shortcut to the message in each of the plurality of date folders for which the time associated with the message is between the beginning and the end of the folder's period.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of~~ A method according to claim 8 wherein the date folders comprise a Today folder for which the period is a current day, a This Week folder for which the period is a current week, a Yesterday folder for which the period is an immediately previous day and a Last Week folder for which the period is an immediately previous week.
10. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of~~ A method according to claim 1 wherein the properties include a time and the method comprises identifying a period corresponding to the time associated with the message and creating a date folder associated with the identified period.
11. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of~~ A method according to claim 1 wherein the record in the database has a length of 64 Bytes or less.
12. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of~~ A method according to claim 1 wherein the record in the database has a length of 32 Bytes or less.
13. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of~~ A method according to claim 1 wherein the record in the database has a length of 24 Bytes or less.
14. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of~~ A method according to claim 1 wherein the message has an attachment and the shortcut additionally comprises an AttachId value identifying the attachment.
15. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of~~ A method according to claim ~~24~~ 14 wherein the attachment is stored in a data store and the AttachId value is an address of the attachment in the data store.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of~~ A method according to claim 24 14 wherein the attachment is stored in a data store and the AttachId value ~~is an address of an identifier~~ identifies a corresponding AttachmentSummary record in the database, wherein the AttachmentSummary record contains an address for the attachment in the data store.
17. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of~~ A method according to claim 24 14 comprising identifying a type of the attachment and automatically creating a shortcut to the message in a folder corresponding to the type of attachment.
18. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of~~ A method according to claim 27 17 comprising automatically creating the folder corresponding to the type of attachment.
19. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of~~ A method according to claim 3 wherein the shortcuts comprise entries in a shortcut table having a primary key comprising a plurality of ordered fields.
20. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of~~ A method according to claim 19 wherein the primary key comprises MessageId + AttachId + FolderId, where AttachId is a field containing a value which associate the shortcut with an attachment to a message.
21. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of~~ A method according to claim 1 comprising, for a plurality of messages, identifying one or more addresses associated with the message and creating a shortcut to the message in a folder associated with each of the addresses.
22. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of~~ A method according to claim 21 comprising applying the rules of Figure 24A and 24B to each of the addresses.

23. (Currently Amended) ~~The method of~~ A method according to claim 1 comprising creating the shortcuts at least in folders associated with each of: a time associated with the message; a sender of the message; and a type of attachment associated with the message.
24. (New) A method according to claim 1 comprising identifying a status of the message and automatically creating a shortcut to the message in a folder corresponding to the status of the message.
25. (New) A method according to claim 24 wherein the status of the message is selected from the group consisting of two or more of:
- a status that indicates the message is deleted,
 - a status that indicates that the message is active,
 - a status that indicates that the message is a draft,
 - a status that indicates that the message is to be kept,
 - a status that indicates that the message has been received,
 - a status that indicates that the message has been sent,
 - a status that indicates that the message has been tagged by a user,
 - a status that indicates that the message has been flagged by a user for follow up,
 - a status that indicates that the message is unread,
 - and,
 - a status that indicates that the message is waiting to be sent.
26. (New) A method according to claim 24 wherein the computer system maintains two or more of:
- an active mail folder for messages having a status that indicates the messages are active,

a kept mail folder for messages having a status that indicates that the messages are to be kept,

a tagged mail folder for messages having a status that indicates that the messages have been tagged by a user,

a todo folder for messages having a status that indicates that the messages have been flagged by a user for follow up, and,

an unread older for messages having a status that indicates that the messages are unread.

27. (New) A method according to claim 2 comprising identifying a status of the message and automatically creating a shortcut to the message in a folder corresponding to the status of the message.
28. (New) A method according to claim 26 wherein the status of the message is selected from the group consisting of two or more of:
- a status that indicates the message is deleted,
 - a status that indicates that the message is active,
 - a status that indicates that the message is a draft,
 - a status that indicates that the message is to be kept,
 - a status that indicates that the message has been received,
 - a status that indicates that the message has been sent,
 - a status that indicates that the message has been tagged by a user,
 - a status that indicates that the message has been flagged by a user for follow up,
 - a status that indicates that the message is unread,
- and,
- a status that indicates that the message is waiting to be sent.

29. (New) A method according to claim 24 wherein the computer system maintains two or more of:
- an active mail folder for messages having a status that indicates the messages are active,
 - a kept mail folder for messages having a status that indicates that the messages are to be kept,
 - a tagged mail folder for messages having a status that indicates that the messages have been tagged by a user,
 - a todo folder for messages having a status that indicates that the messages have been flagged by a user for follow up, and,
 - an unread older for messages having a status that indicates that the messages are unread.
30. (New) A method according to claim 2 wherein the folders comprise a plurality of date folders each associated with a different period, the method comprising automatically generating a shortcut to the message in each of the plurality of date folders for which the time associated with the message is between the beginning and the end of the folder's period.
31. (New) A method according to claim 30 wherein the date folders comprise a Today folder for which the period is a current day, a This Week folder for which the period is a current week, a Yesterday folder for which the period is an immediately previous day a Last Week folder for which the period is an immediately previous week and a Month folder for which the period is a current month.
32. (New) A method according to claim 1 wherein the message has an attachment and the method comprises identifying a type of the attachment and automatically creating a shortcut to the message in a folder corresponding to the type of the attachment.

33. (New) A method according to claim 2 wherein the message has an attachment and the method comprises identifying a type of the attachment and automatically creating a shortcut to the message in a folder corresponding to the type of the attachment.
34. (New) A method according to claim 1 wherein the message is associated with one or more keywords and the method comprises automatically creating a shortcut to the message in a folder corresponding to at least one of the keywords.
35. (New) A method according to claim 34 wherein the message is associated with a plurality of keywords and the method comprises automatically creating a shortcut to the message in a folder corresponding each of the plurality of keywords.
36. (New) A method according to claim 2 wherein the message is associated with one or more keywords and the method comprises automatically creating a shortcut to the message in a folder corresponding to at least one of the keywords.
37. (New) A method according to claim 36 wherein the message is associated with a plurality of keywords and the method comprises automatically creating a shortcut to the message in a folder corresponding each of the plurality of keywords.
38. (New) A method according to claim 2 comprising, for a plurality of messages, identifying one or more addresses associated with the message and creating a shortcut to the message in a folder associated with each of the addresses.

39. (New) A method according to claim 21 comprising applying the rules of Figure 24A and 24B to each of the addresses.